
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE AHA MOKU ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, over the past two
2 hundred years, Hawaii has experienced extensive changes which
3 include the deterioration of the Hawaiian culture, language,
4 values, and land tenure system, which have in part resulted in
5 the over-development of the coastline, alteration of fresh water
6 streams, destruction of life-giving watersheds, decimation of
7 the coral reefs, and the decline of endemic marine and
8 terrestrial species.

9 In an attempt to remedy this situation, in 2012, the
10 legislature established the aha moku advisory committee by Act
11 288, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012. The aha moku advisory
12 committee was placed within the department of land and natural
13 resources for administrative purposes. Act 288, Session Laws of
14 Hawaii 2012, formally recognizes the aha moku system, a
15 traditional system of best practices based upon the indigenous
16 resource management practices of moku (regional) and ahapua'a
17 (site-specific geographic area) that acknowledge the natural
18 contours of land, the natural resources located within those



1 areas, and the methodology necessary to sustain resources and
2 the community. The role of the aha moku advisory committee is
3 to advise the board of land and natural resources and the
4 department of land and natural resources regarding the aha moku
5 system, on issues related to land and natural resources.

6 Since its creation in 2012, the aha moku advisory committee
7 has continued to fulfill its mission and mandates as set forth
8 in Act 288 by working with the eight main Hawaiian islands which
9 encompass forty-three traditional moku in which five hundred
10 eighty-nine ahupua'a are listed. In 2014, the aha moku advisory
11 committee documented its accomplishments in a report to the
12 legislature that was issued in English and Hawaiian languages
13 and included recommendations for the moku of Hawaii, Lanai,
14 Oahu, and Kauai. The report also lists the decisions of the
15 board of land and natural resources relating to those
16 recommendations. Additionally, the report lists the almost
17 forty resource issues that came before the department of land
18 and natural resources divisions relating to the aha moku system.
19 Most of these issues were mitigated within the department of
20 land and natural resources at a divisional level to the
21 satisfaction of the inquiring communities.



1 A purpose of the aha moku advisory committee is to
2 strengthen the rapport and communication between the department
3 of land and natural resources and the public, including the
4 native Hawaiian community, on issues regarding natural and
5 cultural resources, thereby benefitting the entire State. The
6 aha moku advisory committee is well suited for this goal and is
7 continuing to be successful with the beginning phases of these
8 efforts. However, although the legislature unanimously passed
9 Act 288 and appropriated funding in that Act, the aha moku
10 advisory committee has never been funded. As a result of this
11 situation, while the aha moku advisory committee is well
12 situated within the department of land and natural resources and
13 is active, it has not been funded so that it can fulfill its
14 full mandate.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
18 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
19 2016-2017 for the administrative and operational expenses of the
20 aha moku advisory committee.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
7 2016-2017 for community outreach efforts of the aha moku
8 advisory committee.

9 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
10 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.



Report Title:

Aha Moku Advisory Committee; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the administration and operation of the aha moku advisory committee and for community outreach. (SD1)

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